



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Winter 2009
PNWWATER 150

2009 Conference Announcement:

Integrating Communities and Watersheds



Managing finite water supplies in the face of increasing demand caused by population growth, economic development, and ecosystem requirements is the challenge facing decision makers throughout the country but particularly here in the rapidly growing Pacific Northwest. Rather than rely on traditional approaches that focus on individual components of the larger issues surrounding development, community and scientific leaders are calling for a more holistic approach which envisions the interaction between water resources and land use planning. Such an approach requires an interdisciplinary group of stakeholders. To facilitate this type of activities here in the Pacific Northwest, the PNW Water Team is pleased to announce its 2009 regional biennial conference titled: “Water and Land Use in the Pacific Northwest: Integrating Communities and Watersheds.”

The goals of the conference are to:

- ◆ Link water management and land-use planning to protect water resources;
- ◆ Improve the interaction, collaboration, and communication between scientists, planners, and decision-makers; and
- ◆ Establish innovative methods for educating the public, developers, and decision-makers.

The conference will merge the best available water science and land-use knowledge to promote collaboration between scientists, planners, and decision-makers on sustainable land-use methodologies. The agenda was developed by the conference steering committee (comprised of local, tribal and federal agency personnel, practitioners, and university faculty) in response to comments from previous water quality-based conference participants who stressed the need to plan future development in ways that would protect and improve water resources.

The conference will include featured keynote speakers, oral presentations, panel discussions, and a poster session. We are delighted to announce that one of the conference keynote speakers will feature prominent USGS scientist Dr. Robert Hirsh who will be speaking on the long-term hydrologic change and what this may mean for water and environmental planning at the national level. The steering committee is currently in the process of selecting a second keynote speaker who will focus more on the policy and/or economic implications of water and land use on a more regional level.

Our “Call for Abstracts” for both oral and poster presentations was recently released. While the steering committee wants to encourage innovative concepts from many areas of water and land use planning, an abbreviated list of potential themes include: Stormwater; Carrying Capacity; The Science of Planning; Co-management: Surface/Groundwater, Science and Policy; Intersection of Economics, Land Use, and Water Resources; Planning for Climate Change: Adaption and/or Mitigation; Assessing Effectiveness of Stormwater Mitigation; Assessing Effectiveness of TMDL Implementation; Enabling Local Leadership and Action: Optimizing Extension and University Resources; Transboundaries: Watersheds and Jurisdictions; Integrating the Built Environment and Watersheds; and Using Modeling as a Predictor for Future Needs. The deadline for submitting oral presentation abstracts is



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.html>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension
Contact Bob Simmons:

360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact Dan Burns:

360-392-4328

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<http://www.nwic.edu/>

Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute

<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)

<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center

<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10

The Pacific Northwest

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory

<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

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The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System (CSREES).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

May 6, 2009. The deadline for poster contributions has not yet been established. The steering committee plans to meet later in May to review and categorize abstracts into related themes to fill out the oral and panel presentations. Our desire is to highlight regional challenges, solutions and even failures across the region so that successful models can be developed as the issues related to water and land use continue to expand throughout the PNW.

Pre-conference activities will include a field trip to demonstrate a thematic concept and an educational workshop. Subcommittees are currently busy identifying the possibilities including low impact development, local decision-making and building local capacities, and other interrelated water and land use topics.

The Water and Land Use Conference will be held November 4-6, 2009 at the beautiful Skamania Lodge (www.skamania.com) in Stevenson, Washington. Skamania Lodge is a magnificent mountain resort nestled on 175 wooded acres in the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The venue is located approximately 45 minutes east of Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA and is conveniently located for participants on either side of the Cascades. For more information about this conference as well as information on past conferences, please visit our website at: <http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive additional conference information as the program develops, please contact Ms. Diane Weber at watercenter@wsu.edu.



Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

CSREES is the Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is the federal partner in this water quality program.